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REPORT ON U.S. WAR CRIMES
IN
NAM-DINH CITY

STATINTL

Committee for the investigation
of U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Viet Nam
of Nam Hà province

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Administrative Committee
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Committee for Investigation
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was crimes

REPORT ON U.S. WAR CRIMES
IN NAM-DINH CITY

In their air war of destruction against the DRV, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have perpetrated innumerable crimes: massacre of civilians, destruction of property, devastation of populated areas, many prosperous towns and villages in North Vietnam. Namdinh city is one of their victims.

It is a densely populated area with a population consisting of 93,000 mostly of women and children crowding an area of over 5 square kilometers. Namdinh's population density is very high: 17,000 people per square kilometer. The city lies in the middle of an expanse of paddy fields on the right bank of the Red River, South of the Dao canal, South West of the Jay River, and 30 kms from the seacoast.

Namdinh is also a well known textile city. After the last devastating 9 year war, it spent 11 years restoring and expanding its Textile complex. Series of new factories have been built. Nearly all of the population of Namdinh are workers and handicraftsmen working in factories among which the Textile Complex which employs 13,000 workers of whom 70 per cent are women. Handicraftsmen alone number nearly ten thousand.

Namdinh is also a famous cultural centre of North Vietnam. It boasts ancient historical sites and natural beauty spots such as the "Scholar Campus", the Scholar Lane, The Vixuyen Lake etc ... The talented poet Tran-ke-Xuong was born there. After the war, the cultural and educational schools have been vigorously developed. Namdinh city has

- 2 -

2 schools of the third level, 6 schools of the second level and 20 of the first level, with a total enrolment of 24,766 pupils. Besides there are many vocational schools such as assistant-doctor school, technical school No 3, school of Architecture etc. Nam Dinh city has a big polyclinic with modern equipment and numerous beds, sanitary stations, maternity houses, nurseries, kindergartens, cinemas, theatres and other public utilities. The workers' living quarter is one of the city's biggest installations.

I. - U.S. war crimes.

U.S. war crimes against the religious and non-religious people have kept on increasing. Up to July 20, 1966, in 1,135 sorties, they carried out 270 strafings and dropped over 2,000 bombs of all types, (some localities received thousands of shrapnel bombs), fired 1,800 rockets and hundreds of missiles on many villages, dykes etc. Their air attacks against Nam Dinh city have been most atrocious for the civilian population.

In the early days of 1965 the peaceful life of Nam Dinh's people began to be directly menaced by the U.S. aggressors.

On January 17, 1965 at 10,37 a.m. (local time) a reconnaissance plane flew over the city at the altitude of 16 kms. On May 14, 1965, 4 jets carried out another reconnaissance flight over the city.

After a few months of reconnaissance, on June 28, 1965, at 7.30 a.m. (local time) when it was cloudy and raining hard 2 F. 105 s and 2 F. 4 Hs from 11 kms south of the city launched 2 Bullpup missiles on the living quarters of the textile workers. The first surprise attack killed 10 civilians including 2 old men and 3 children, and wounded 12 others. During this raid,

- 3 -

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13
47

5 members of the family of weaver Hoang Thi Sinh were killed (3 children among them).

From early 1965 to September 20, 1966, the U.S. aggressors conducted 33 air-raids over Nam Dinh city (11 times in 1965 and 22 times in the first 9 months of 1966). If night attacks are to be mentioned, from 3 night air strikes in 1965 they were brought to 11 in the first 9 months of this year.

The American aggressors bombed and strafed many densely populated districts of the city like Hang Thao, Hoang Van Thu, Hang Cau streets, the workers' living quarters and so on. They bombed the Textile Complex when the weavers were working and blew up the dyke protecting the city. The U.S. aggressors went to the length of destroying hospitals, schools, nurseries, kindergartens and even churches and pagodas.

In their bombings and strafings of the city they have used various ultra-modern planes such as A.4A, A.6A, A.35, ^{sky} F.105, F.4H, RB.57 ... They have showered over Nam Dinh more than 700 bombs totalling 200 tons, including MK.61, MK.62, MK.84 ..., fired 54 Bullpups and 248 rockets. Particularly, in the two raids of August 4, 1965, and May 31, 1966, the Americans flew in as many as 27 planes of all types and poured more than one hundred bombs on the city each time.

In an attempt to carry out their extremely savage scheme U.S. pilots have deliberately and wickedly resorted to surprise attacks. From the 7th Fleet, U.S. Navy aircraft made a quick dash through 30 kms from the coast to the city, flying various low altitudes and in different directions along the banks of the Red River and Day River, or at times very high, hiding themselves amidst dark clouds in rainy days or in morning mist. Most disastrous for the civilians were the 14 sneaky night raids by Yankee murderers between mid-1965 and September 20, 1966.

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- 4 -

During the 33 abovesaid air attacks against Nam Dinh, they caused many losses in lives and property to the city's inhabitants. 89 persons were killed, among them 23 children, 36 women, and 405 wounded, among them 81 women, 44 old men and 41 children. 881 dwelling houses (accounting for 13 per cent of the city housing) with an area of 86,847 square metres, were destroyed, leaving 12,464 inhabitants homeless.

Losses in housing after the two raids on Hang Thao and Hoang Van Thu streets alone amounted to millions of dongs (Vietnamese currency).

Many industrial and handicraft enterprises were attacked like the Textile Complex.

Together with dozens of most savage attacks on dykes and hydraulic works in Nam Ha province, U.S. planes bombed 3 times the dyke network surrounding the city, seriously threatening the life of the inhabitants in the province and the city.

While strafing Nam Dinh's populous quarters, the U.S. aggressors did not spare hospitals, schools, nurseries and kindergartens. The city's hospital was bombed twice, and its consulting room, maternity room and X-ray room damaged. Tran Quoc Toan, Nguyen Van Cu, Ho Tung Mau schools were also destroyed by the Yankees. A kindergarten in the Textile Complex was bombed time and again; many buildings razed to the ground and equipment damaged. Fortunately, all the children had been evacuated to safety. As public welfare facilities, hospitals were built in special areas with visible Red Cross marking; schools and nurseries bore no sign which might cause them to be mistaken for military targets. Churches, pagodas, holy sites with religious symbols have been indiscriminately strafed, damaged and wrecked by U.S. planes.

- 5 -

Following are some typical air raids in which the U.S. aggressors mercilessly bombed and strafed several populated quarters:

a) The April 14, 1966 air raid over Hang Thao street was one of these biggest deliberate U.S. attacks on human lives.

Hang Thao street was a populous one, with a population of 17,680. People had evacuated before April 14, 1966, and there were only 2,300 left. They were workers and handicraftsmen who had to stick to their factories, enterprises and co-operatives to live and work.

Before attacking Hang Thao street, U.S. aircraft had carried out 7 reconnaissance flights over Nam Dinh,

- At 10.35 a.m. (local time) on December 1, 1965, 2 F.8Us flew in from the South West;
- At 7.02 a.m. (local time) on December 12, 1965, 2 A.4s flew in from the South East direction of the city;
- At 10.32 a.m. (local time) on December 18, 1965, 6 aircraft flew over the city;
- At 2 p.m. (local time) on January 12, 1966, 2 F.4s flew over the Southern part of the city;
- At 3.35 p.m. (local time) on February 4, 1966, 2 four-plane formations operating in the South East and South West, 20 kilometers from the city, dropping anti-radar materials on the city,
- At 1.05 p.m. on February 18, 1966, 2 F.8Us flew from the South West to the North, 9 kms from the city;
- At 1.06 p.m. on February 7, 1966, an unmanned plane flew over the city.

At 6.30 a.m., when those who had just come back from a night shift were still sleeping, those who were about to work were having breakfast, women were getting ready for their shopping or for their house work, and children were getting ready for the kindergartens or infant classes, two U.S. planes came flying at low altitude along Ninh Binh Highway No 10 and fortitively intruded into Hang Thao, Hang Cau, Tran Hung Dao streets and Ben Thao area, dropped 6 MK.84 bombs killing 49 people, among them 15 children, 8 old men, 20 women, wounding 135 people, and destroying 240 houses on an area of 31,440 square metres in which 810 households with 4,129 people were living.

Recalling Hang Thao street raid, nobody can forget the grievous losses caused by the U.S. aggressors.

- Mr. Tran Dang Van, 30, married to Nguyen Thi Kim Dung living at No. 28 Hang Thao street, was manager of Van Tuong Tailoring Co-operative. On April 14, which was the anniversary of his father's death, his brothers and sisters gathered at his house. On April 14 morning, Van went to his shop. Having finished feeding her baby, his sister Hoi was getting ready for her shopping. Her husband Xanh was sitting in a hammock, fondling his first baby, Vo Thi Thu Ha, who was five months old. The two sisters were busy buying things for the anniversary of their father's death at Dragon Market, when suddenly they heard a terrible bomb explosion. Seeing high columns of smoke in Hang Thao street direction, they rushed home. In their street they saw demolished houses and corpses all over the ground. What remained of their houses was only heaps of debris. Dung rushed to the tailoring co-operative's shop; it was also demolished. Together with the cadres of the district, she calmly cleared the ruins and it was not until 8 a.m. on April 15, 1966, that she found her husband's

- 7 -

body still holding a pair of scissors in a hand. As for Hoi, together with her relatives, she cleared the debris of her house and at 9 a.m. on April 14, 1966, she found Xanh's corpse, still holding little Thu Ha, both wrapped up in the hammock. Nam Dinh citizens will never forget what Hoi said: "I didn't expect that the death anniversary of my father would also be that of my husband, brother and first child".

- Mrs Nguyen Thi Quy, 36, became a widow in 1963, when she was expecting her fourth baby Kieu Dung. She worked hard to bring up her four children: Nguyen Cao Thang, 11; Thanh Huong, 8; Thanh Thuy, 6, and Kieu Dung, 3. In May 1965, she evacuated her three daughters to Ninh Cuong village, Truc Ninh district. Thang went to Thanh Hoa to live with his great uncle. She remained in the city to produce joss-sticks. After some months as she missed them very much, her mother agreed to let her bring back her three daughters to the city to spend some days with her.

The three children were very happy, they sang and danced all day long. On April 14, they got up early. No sooner had Mrs Quy gone down to the kitchen to take the pot of soup, than a bomb exploded by her, wounded her in a leg. With the help of a stick she came up to see what had happened to her children but found no traces of them. The people in her street had to spend a lot of time digging out their corpses buried in the ground. Those three pretty children had been killed by U.S. aggressors. There were only three pairs of shoes left.

- Mrs. Dang Thi Suu, 42, is Mr Cay's wife. Her two elder children were already working, her five younger ones evacuated to Thai Binh. Her youngest child was Tran Thi To Hoan, 4 years old. In the beginning of April 1966, as she had measles, Mr Cay brought her back to the city to look after her. From the evacuation place, her brother Thai, 13, came to the city

- 2 -

to bring her back. No sooner had Thai stepped out of the house with his sister on his back, than both were killed by U.S. bombs. Little Hung, Mrs Suu's second son, was killed by a bomb splinter piercing his side and another blasting off his upper jaw. Mrs Suu became almost mad and together with the cadres of the district she took her children to the infirmary. Hardly had she laid them in bed, when the first-aid cadres carried her husband in. He suffered from a bomb blast and was wounded in the head by bomb splinters. Mr Cay asked his wife: "How are children?" Facing the family's tragedy, in order to set her dying husband's mind at peace she answered: "Don't worry dear, they are all right". Not long after that, Mr Cay died. Together with the cadres of the district, Mrs Cay buried her husband and children. She suppressed her suffering and resumed giving first-aid care to other victims of the Hang Thao street raid.

- On April 14 morning, little Binh was sleeping by his mother Tran Thi Mai, 32, and his two brothers Nguyen Dang Ngoc, 6, and Nguyen Dang Tuan, 45 days old. All the family was sound asleep, when a MK.84 bomb exploded at the back of the house, killing the three children and wounding their mother. Before Binh died he could only say: "Save me, father!". Binh's father repressed his grief and resumed the digging out of victims.

- Tens of other children became orphans because their parents were killed by U.S. bombs. Mr Sanh is a joiner. His wife, a textile worker, was killed by U.S. bombs and left him 4 children: Nguyen Van Binh, 11; Nguyen Van Minh, 8; Nguyen Thi Dung, 4, and Nguyen Thi Hong, 2. Phan Viet Hai and his wife were textile workers. They were killed together with their three children. There survived only the youngest one born 25 days before. Little Binh, 11, not only lost his parents in this raid but also got two wounds in the head which caused a trauma. Each time he thought of his parents he shouted, asking people to take revenge on the U.S. aggressors.

- 9 -

Besides a host of orphans, there are numerous old people and women who have been disabled for life by U.S. bombs.

Mrs Nhung, a textile worker, was six months gone with her first child. She was returning home from work. When she was passing by the city hospital, a bomb exploded, many blocks of walls stroke against her and wounded her spleen. She fainted but the doctors gave her most dedicated care. They removed the wounded spleen, took out a litre of blood coagulated in her lung and she was saved. One month later, she gave birth to her first baby daughter two months premature.

b) A month after the air raid on Hang Thao street, on May 18, 1965, U.S. aircraft attacked Hoang Van Thu populous street next to it. Hoang Van Thu street was formerly called the Chinese quarter. The street which covers an area of nearly 400 square metres was inhabited by 1,734 households with 7,856 persons. The houses there were built long ago, with some accommodating up to 10 households comprising nearly 100 persons. In the street were many handicraft shops, eastern and western medicine shops, thread-producing co-ops, the Thanh Quan Temple of the Chinese residents and the municipal church. Aware of the perfidious scheme of the U.S. aggressors, the Municipal Administrative Committee had evacuated most of the inhabitants and had air-raid shelters dug. On May 18, there remained in the street only 230 persons. At 11.04 a.m., when the population was either lunching or resting and when it was raining heavily, the street was flooded and water filled up all air-raid shelters, foxholes and trenches, two B-42s flying at a 600-metre altitude sneaked in and dropped 8 thin-shelled bombs causing many casualties. The U.S. aggressors air-attacked the city during heavy rain, so the victims did not have time to take shelter. Mr Duc, 33, a worker at a rice-husking mill, had just returned from his work. He was preparing lunch in the kitchen when he was thrown

- 10 -

out by a bomb explosion in the middle of his house. The second bomb blast in front of the Cathedral threw him back into the first bomb crater full of water. His corpse was taken out 5 hours later from water and ruins. He died leaving a widow and 3 orphans. Le Hung, upon hearing the bomb blast, hastily jumped into a trench full of water. A wall fell down into the trench and he got drowned leaving a widow and two orphans. Among 13 persons killed and 11 wounded, was Nguyen Van Vinh, 25, who had survived after the previous air raid on Hang Thao street. He moved to Hoang Van Thu street after his house was destroyed.

The air raid on Hoang Van Thu street resulted in great material losses: 372 houses which covered 46,333 m² and accommodated 4,129 households consisting of 5,555 people were destroyed or heavily damaged. The Cathedral area was bombed, the stone-cave collapsed. The Lac Thien Temple and the meeting hall of the Chinese residents were demolished.

a) The surprise night raids conducted by the U.S. aggressors inflicted heavy losses on the population inside and outside the city.

At 9,20 p.m. (local time), on September 12, 1965, two A.6As sneaked in over the city and released 16 bombs on the Textile Complex killing 6 workers and wounding 28 others at work. Among the dead was Mrs Minh who was four months gone with child.

At 00.50 a.m., on July 4, 1966, two A.6As flew in and dropped 14 bombs, wounding 11 civilians and killing a medical worker of the 4th living quarters in his sleep.

At 11,38 p.m., on July 30, 1966, two A.6As dropped 26 bombs on Phu Long hamlet, My Tan village, in the outskirts of the city, killing 12 persons including a whole family of 7 and wounding 10 others.

- 11 -

d) U.S. piratical aircraft besides committing massacres in densely-populated areas in the city, attacked factories and enterprises which produced daily necessities for the people. They carried out 17 air raids on the textile complex on which they dropped more than 100 bombs, causing heavy losses. Thanks to good anti-air raid precautions, the workers did not suffer any human losses.

e) The U.S. imperialists also attacked the dyke surrounding the city in an attempt to sabotage the peaceful work of the population. On May 31 and July 14, 1966, they dropped 6 bombs on the 2-kilometre long dyke which protects the city against floods, damaging many sections. The population in the city spent 20 days excavating 1,200 m³ of earth to repair the damaged parts. One day later, the water-level of the Dao River rose to 0.4 m above street level and continued to rise to 0.9 m. During the last days of July, 1966 when the water level kept rising, at 11.38 p.m., on July 20 and at 2.28 a.m., on July 31, 1966, U.S. aircraft repeatedly struck at this dyke.

The destruction of the Nam Dinh city's dyke was only part of the systematic attack on the dykes and irrigation projects in Nam Ha; these air raids seriously jeopardized the life of the urban population and the people in Nam Ha province.

II. - The U.S. Imperialists must repay their blood debt.

The U.S. imperialists have, in the course of their aggressive war against Vietnam, committed untold crimes against the people of Nam Dinh. They have used all types of modern jet planes to rain hundreds of tons of bombs, shells and rockets on this populous city of socialist North Vietnam, killing civilians, even newly-born and babies still in their mothers' wombs, making tens of children orphans including sucklings.

Hundreds of people, among whom many children and old folk have been painfully incapacitated for life. Not satisfied with killing people, they have destroyed factories, enterprises, hospitals, schools, nurseries, thousands of dwellings and even dams and dikes.

The Nam Dinh population still keep these sufferings engraved upon their memory. The hatred for the U.S. will be forever graven in the hearts of the population of this textile city. All town folk are determined to defeat the U.S. aggressors in defence of their independence, freedom and right to live. The U.S. imperialists have been dealt telling counter-blows: 15 jet planes have been downed, many others shot ablaze, a number of U.S. pilots captured. Along with the fight against U.S. air attacks, the town folk have actively increased production so as to safeguard their lives. In the first six months of 1966, the evacuated city plants and factories have all fulfilled and overfulfilled the State plan.

Together with the people throughout the country, the Nam Dinh population are determined to defend their national rights recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The Committee for the investigation of U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Nam Ha province strongly denounces to home and world public opinion the extremely barbarous and inhuman crimes perpetrated by the U.S. aggressors against the people of Nam Ha province in general and of the Nam Dinh city in particular.

The U.S. big shots in the White House and the Pentagon will have to answer for their crimes before world public opinion and history.

Committee for the Investigation of U.S.
Imperialists' War Crimes in Nam Ha Province